

Application/Control Number : 10/691,589  
Art Unit: 3736  
January 30, 2006  
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**In the Specification.**

At the top of the first page, please substitute the new title reading:

—Blood Collection Assembly with a Stopper that prevents Blood Dispersion—  
for the original title.

**In the Claims.**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

3. (new) A tube for collecting blood with a vacuum provided with a sealing stopper comprising a front, external face thereof with a piercing guiding point suitable for a hollow needle to pierce axially therein and further through said stopper for blood collection into the tube, and wherein said stopper further comprises: a peripheral region and a central region of said external face thereof, the central region being provided with an opening for allowing needle access to said piercing guiding point; an annular lip that is formed monolithic with said stopper so as to protrude radially from said peripheral region over said external face of the stopper, towards said central region thereof and up to and around said opening; and an annular groove that is formed under said annular lip and between said annular lip and said external face and surrounds said piercing guiding point, said groove being shaped so as to retain and contain any blood drop that is entrained out of the tube and through the stopper upon withdrawal of the needle from the stopper.

4. (new) The blood collection tube with sealing stopper of claim 3, wherein said front external face comprises a cavity that is formed externally to the stopper.

5. (new) The blood collection tube with sealing stopper of claim 4, wherein said cavity has a spherical dome shape.

6. (new) The blood collection tube with sealing stopper of claim 4, further